(b) if so, the details thereof and the companies/countries proposed to be invited;

(c) The details of the blocks identified which are likely to be handed over to those companies; and

(d) The terms and conditions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has decided to invite the Fourth Round of bids from international and Indian companies for exploration for oil and gas in India. 72 blocks—39 offshore and 33 onshore—in 17 basins are proposed to be offered, subject to environmental clearance. Companies possessing requisite financial and technical expertise can bid. The contracts would be production-sharing contracts.

Cancellation of Train between Samastipur and Khagariya

*319. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger trains running in the morning and evening between Samastipur and Khagariya junction (North-Eastern Railway) via Rosda have been cancelled for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore this train; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The run of 415Up/41Dn Samastipur-Banmankhi train has been cancelled between Samastipur and Saharsa.

(b) This was one of the 83 trains that had to be cancelled due to dislocation caused by extensive civil disturbances and damage to railway property during anti-reservation agitation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Khurda Road-Bolangir Railway Line

*320. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct resurvey for the construction of a new railway line from Khurda Road to Bolangir on the South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Vayudoot

*321. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot is incurring heavy losses every month;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one year and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to privatise the Vayudoot; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI (MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accumulated losses of Vayudoot up to 31st March, 1991 are estimated to be of the order of Rs. 128 crores. The major reasons for the losses are: Short-haul nature of the operations, obsolete and uneconomic fleet, unremunerative fare structure.

(c) and (d) Government is considering various options regarding the future set up of Vayudoot. No final decision has been taken in the matter.

Railway Lines in Marathwada

*322. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set during 1990-91 for the construction of railway lines covering Marathwada;

(b) whether the target has been fully achieved; and

(c) the details of the plan for construction and conversion of railway lines in the area during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No target was set for opening of lines covering Marathwada during 1990-91.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad MG to BG and construction of Adilabad-Pimpalkutti (Partly in Andhra Pradesh) are targetted for opening in 1991-92 in the Marathwada region.

Power Plants in Kerala

*323. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a diesel based power station at Brahmapuram and a gas based power station at Vypeen, Cochin in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) A Feasibility Report for setting up of 90 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Brahmapuram envisaging installation of 2 × 30 MW Gas Turbine + 1 × 30 MW Steam Turbine based on the LSHS or Gas as fuel at an estimated cost of Rs. 106.66 crores was received by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in April, 1989 from the State Electricity Board. The proposal can be processed by the CEA for techno-economic clearance after the fuel linkage is confirmed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, other requisite inputs are tied up and necessary clearances are obtained by the State Electricity Board.

NTPC examined the possibility of putting up a Liquified Natural Gas based power station at Vypeen (Cochin). Gas linkage is not available for setting up this Power Station.

[*Translation*]

Rural Electrification of Jahanabad District in Bihar

*324. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in Jahanabad district in Bihar;

(b) the time by which the rest of the villages are likely to be electrified;